

reasonable one. Senator Kremer, do you want to settle on a half, or...okay, well, I think a half is probably reasonable.

SENATOR LEWIS: Okay, motion on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Kremer moves to amend the DeCamp amendment by striking 1/2 mill and inserting 3/4 mill.

SENATOR LEWIS: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to follow your footsteps, and say I'm always willing to compromise as long as it's reasonable, so thanks for teaching me those lessons. I did think we needed one mill. There's only one district in the State of Nebraska that seems to have trouble. I checked with the Director and asked him this question. Do the people, the taxpaying people in your district object to going to one mill, and he said we have checked and checked, and we find only one...only one, that we know of that's objected to going to one mill. I did check on the amount of money that's available in the Upper Republican, and if I read their figures correctly, the greatest amount of money that they can raise today under the one mill levy plus the 1/4 mill levy is \$96,000. Now you subtract from that the cost of operation, and they have only left about \$63,000 to build projects, to monitor the wells, and to carry on their responsibility for good conservation practices. I asked...further, I asked this question, can you get along with less than one? For the immediate future they thought they could. They said we're sure we can get along for now...just for now...I repeat that...with 3/4 of a mill. I think it's fairest since they do not object, why should the rest of us object, that are not included in this area. I'd like to call your attention again to a statement made by the Department of Interior, and I've tried to point out the danger of neglecting to do what we ought to do on the local level. I'm quoting again from a statement coming from the Department of Interior when they say this...and you've heard me say it before, but it bears repetition...it goes on to say that Americans have long been prolific users of water in the western and central parts of the nation. The demand of fresh water has threatened to exceed the supplies for some time. In some areas we are seriously depleting our groundwater resources which will take centuries to recharge. The possibility of a periodic drouth is always before Ne-braskans. I should read more but due to a lack of time I'd like to go over the next page to the statement coming from the Department of Interior, and this is where we ought to pay attention. They go on to say, we do not believe that we can afford to continue the habits that we're used to, and